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Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

January 28, 2020

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
ATTENTION: THE SECRETARY

Re: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, we urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed rate increases for nonprofit organizations. Our organization relies on the United States Postal Service to raise funds and communicate with our donors and supporters.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Today, there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's, and it is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth-leading cause of death among those age 65 and older. We receive tens of millions of dollars annually--which directly support our mission--via gifts received through the mail.

The Postal Service plays a vital role in supporting the philanthropic sector. For the Alzheimer's Association, it is a critical means by which we communicate with our supporters and raise the funds needed to carry out our mission. We have grave concerns about the proposed formulas which may lead to significant rate increases and the negative impact those increases would have on our ability to accomplish our mission. These rate increases would force our organization to reduce mail volume which will inevitably result in reduced revenue, and in turn, may affect the provision of the services on which so many persons affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias depend. We believe the current formulas and rate setting system where postal rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index should be maintained. This is critical to our organization's ability to continue to use and rely on the mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Alzheimer's Association would be glad to serve as a resource to the Postal Service as it considers these important issues and how they relate to individuals living with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Please contact Laura Thornhill, Senior Associate Director, Regulatory Affairs, at 202-638-7042 or lthornhill@alz-aim.org if you have questions or if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Egge
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs